

casualties in low intensity operations involving intra-state conflict are probably created by these rounds.¹⁴

One of the primary sources for technical data and availability of ammunition for this study was the Internet. This same source was used to contact a number of manufacturers in North America and Europe asking for their views on several technical and policy questions. As well, a number of experts on small arms ammunition and explosives were consulted in person and through E-Mail. A few of these sources, both government and private, for understandable reasons requested anonymity. The author is confident concerning the bona-fides of those individuals, thus the text will on occasion refer to a source with no attribution. The information from all of these sources plainly indicates both the problems and potential for addressing the issue of ammunition controls within the context of this study. Manufacturers that were contacted on the issue of ammunition controls were clearly told that the research was being conducted within the context of military small arms ammunition used in conflict and post-conflict situations of a criminal group, or political nature including state misuse. They were assured that this study was not connected with the politics of "domestic firearms regulation" within the North American or European context. Notwithstanding, there was a distinct indication from some of the individuals responding on behalf of the companies contacted in the USA that ammunition control within the framework of addressing destabilizing surpluses of light weapons in conflict and post-conflict regions of the world was surreptitious domestic "gun control"¹⁵ by another means. Thus, for that reason and perhaps others, returns were spotty and there was sometimes a reluctance to respond to the questions asked. Also inherent in some of the responses was the view that more controls would merely add to increased costs for producers and governments without solving the problems they were intended to address. Annex B contains a list of all the manufacturing companies contacted along with the questions and consolidated responses. Where appropriate the responses, along with other sources, have been used in the analysis contained herein.

AMMUNITION PRODUCERS

International Overview

There appears to be a belief expressed in some small arms studies that production of ammunition is limited to several large producers in a few states.¹⁶ This is not the case. As can be seen at Annex A, authoritative sources list at least 71 states that produce military small arms

¹⁴ This statement is based on the authors own 35 years of experience in the infantry and anecdotal evidence from research. It is unfortunate that the UN Panel of Experts Report did not address which "light weapons" were actually the greater casualty producers. This is another area that is ripe for study.

¹⁵ The term "gun control" is used here to indicate likely opposition to domestic firearms regulation..

¹⁶ Kartha states that in 1995 only 45 states manufactured rifles and seemed to equate this to ammunition production as well. Likewise she seemed skeptical of the capability of many third world states to produce adequate supplies of their own ammunition. Kartha, 3